

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A rolling bearing unit comprising:

an outer ring;

an inner shaft disposed radially inward of said outer ring, said inner shaft including an outer peripheral surface and a first axial end surface[[:]],

said inner shaft including an inner ring fitting part disposed on said outer peripheral surface adjacent to said first axial end surface of said inner shaft; and

an inner ring connected to said inner ring fitting part, said inner ring including first and second axial end surfaces[[:]],

said first end surface of said inner shaft being crimped onto said first axial end surface of said inner ring[[:]].

wherein:

said inner ring includes a shoulder and a step portion disposed axially between said shoulder and said first axial end surface of said inner ring; and

said step portion ~~including~~ includes an inclined surface ~~[[shape]]~~, said inclined surface including a diameter, said diameter expanding towards said second axial end surface of said inner ring and towards said shoulder,

whereupon said first axial end surface of said inner shaft being crimped onto said first axial end surface of said inner ring and an annular binding jig configured to resist movement of said inner ring during said crimping being matingly engageable against the entirety of said inclined surface, said inclined surface opposes along the entirety thereof a force of said binding jig that is disposed on said inclined surface and which vertically presses against said inclined surface whereby said binding jig force and a force of said crimping extending radially outward relative to said inner ring and said inner shaft each act in opposite directions so as to offset one other so that said inner ring is substantially prevented from moving relative to said binding jig, the entirety of the step portion and the shoulder providing respective seating surfaces on which the binding jig is seatable so as to resist movement of the inner ring.

8. (Currently Amended) A rolling bearing unit comprising:

an outer ring;

an inner shaft disposed radially inward of said outer ring, said inner shaft including an outer peripheral surface and a first axial end surface[[:]],

said inner shaft including an inner ring fitting part disposed on said outer peripheral surface adjacent to said first axial end surface; and

an inner ring connecting to said inner ring fitting part, said inner ring including first and second axial end surfaces[[:]].

said first end surface of said inner shaft end being crimped onto said first axial end surface of said inner ring[[:]].

wherein:

said inner ring includes a shoulder, said shoulder including an outer peripheral surface, said outer peripheral surface including an outer diameter;

said inner ring ~~including~~ includes an annular step portion disposed axially between said shoulder and first axial end surface of said inner ring;

said step portion ~~including~~ includes a cylindrical surface, said cylindrical surface including an axial outer diameter, said outer diameter of said cylindrical surface being smaller than said outer diameter of the shoulder portion; and

said step portion ~~including~~ includes an inclined surface, said inclined surface connecting said cylindrical surface to said shoulder portion, said inclined surface including a diameter, and said diameter of said inclined surface expanding towards said second axial end surface of said inner ring and towards said shoulder,

whereupon said first axial end surface of said inner shaft being crimped onto said first axial end surface of said inner ring and an annular binding jig configured to resist movement of said inner ring during said crimping being matingly engageable against the entirety of said inclined surface, said inclined surface opposes along the entirety thereof a force of said binding jig that is disposed on said inclined surface and which vertically presses against said inclined surface whereby said binding jig force and a force of said crimping extending radially outward relative to said inner ring and said inner shaft each act in opposite directions so as to offset one other so that said inner ring is substantially prevented from moving relative to said binding jig, each portion of the cylindrical surface and the shoulder providing respective seating surfaces on which the binding jig is seatable so as to resist movement of the inner ring.

9. (Previously Presented) The rolling bearing unit of claim 8, wherein an inclination angle is defined by an angle between said inclined surface and said cylindrical surface, and said inclination angle being from 90 degrees to 175 degrees.

10. (Currently Amended) A rolling bearing unit comprising:

an outer ring;

an inner shaft disposed radially inward of said outer ring, said inner shaft including an outer peripheral surface and a first axial end surface; and

two axial inner rings adjacently disposed on said outer peripheral surface of said inner shaft, each of the rings including first and second axial end surfaces[[:]].

~~an inner ring disposed against said inner shaft, said inner ring including first and second axial end surfaces;~~

wherein:

said first axial end surface of said inner shaft ~~[[being]]~~ is crimped onto said first axial end surface of ~~said inner ring~~ one of said two axial inner rings;

said inner ring onto which said inner shaft is crimped including includes a shoulder portion, said shoulder portion including an outer peripheral surface, said outer peripheral surface including an outer diameter;

said inner ring onto which said inner shaft is crimped including includes  
a circular annular step portion disposed axially between said shoulder portion  
and said first axial end surface of said inner ring;

said step portion including includes a cylindrical surface, said cylindrical  
surface including an axial outer diameter, said outer diameter of said cylindrical  
surface being small than said outer diameter of said shoulder portion; and

said step portion including includes an annular inclined surface  
connecting said cylindrical surface to said outer peripheral surface of said  
shoulder portion, said inclined surface including a diameter, and said diameter  
of said inclined surface expanding towards said second axial end surface of said  
inner ring and towards said shoulder portion,

whereupon said first axial end surface of said inner shaft being  
crimped onto said first axial end surface of said inner ring onto which said inner  
shaft is crimped and an annular binding jig configured to resist movement of  
said inner ring onto which said inner shaft is crimped during said crimping  
being matingly engageable against the entirety of said inclined surface, said  
inclined surface opposes along the entirety thereof a force of said binding jig  
that is disposed on said inclined surface and which vertically presses against said  
inclined surface whereby said binding jig force and a force of said crimping  
extending radially outward relative to said inner ring onto which said inner shaft

is crimped and said inner shaft each act in opposite directions so as to offset one other so that said inner ring onto which said inner shaft is crimped is substantially prevented from moving relative to said binding jig, each portion of the cylindrical surface and the shoulder portion providing respective seating surfaces on which the binding jig is seatable so as to resist movement of the inner ring onto which said inner shaft is crimped.

11. (Currently Amended) A rolling bearing unit comprising:

an outer ring;

an inner shaft disposed radially inward of the outer ring, said inner shaft including an outer peripheral surface and a first axial end surface[[:]],

said inner shaft including an inner ring fitting part disposed on said outer peripheral surface adjacent to said first axial end surface; and

an inner ring connecting to said inner ring fitting part, said inner ring including first and second axial end surfaces[[:]].

said first axial end surface of said inner shaft being crimped onto said first axial end surface of said inner ring;

wherein said inner ring comprises:

a shoulder portion and an inclined surface disposed between said shoulder portion and said first axial end surface of said inner ring; and

said inclined surface having a diameter, said diameter expanding towards said second axial end [[face]] surface of said inner ring and towards said shoulder portion.

whereupon said first axial end surface of said inner shaft being crimped onto said first axial end surface of said inner ring and an annular binding jig configured to resist movement of said inner ring during said crimping being matingly engageable against the entirety of said inclined surface, said inclined surface opposes along the entirety thereof a force of said binding jig that is disposed on said inclined surface and which vertically presses against said inclined surface whereby said binding jig force and a force of said crimping extending radially outward relative to said inner ring and said inner shaft each act in opposite directions so as to offset one other so that said inner ring is substantially prevented from moving relative to said binding jig, portions of said inner ring adjacent said inclined surface, including said shoulder portion, providing respective seating surfaces on which the binding jig is seatable so as to resist movement of the inner ring.



12. (Previously Presented) The rolling bearing of claim 11, wherein said inner ring includes a central axis, said bearing including an inclination angle defined by an angle between said inclined surface and said central axis of said inner ring, said inclination angle being from 90 degrees to 175 degrees.